

## Cattle Committee Report

2009 NIAA Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 31, 2009



The Cattle committee met on Tuesday, March 31, 2009 from 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm EDT, during the 2009 NIAA Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky with 23 people present. Karen Jordan, DVM, served as the Chair, and Jon Johnson (absent) served as the Vice Chair.

The committee session focused on **The Changing Face of Animal Agriculture**. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to **The Changing Face of Animal Agriculture**:

**Dr. Chris Sigurdon, Purdue University Communications Department**, presented “Through the Looking Glass: Trying for transparency with customers.” Agriculture needs to communicate in a “two way symmetrical dialogue.” Mutual communication and respect is used to resolve conflicts. McDonald’s tries to do this. If you (the consumer) cares about an issue, then McDonald’s cares about the issue.

**Liz Doornink, American Farmers for the Advancement and Conservation of Technology**, presented “American Farmers for the Advancement and Conservation of Technology: How producers can and will make a difference.” Producers need to get our message to the public in a “passionate way.” AFACT brings the message to the public on the use of technology in today’s farm environment. Examples: 3X milking, AI, rBST, heat abatement, vaccines, deworming, computer programs, balanced rations, etc.

**Dr. David Meeker, National Renderers Association**, presented “New FDA Regulations, Renderer Requirements, and Impact on Cattle Producers.” Dairies with >30 month old animals are the most hard hit with the new regulations. Renderers are the only ones responsible for this rule. Prohibited material must be removed and separated before rendering. Renderers must have documents that materials are free of CMPAF. Age certification is needed. The producer fills out a document that the renderer keeps on file that helps with documentation of age verification.

**Dr. Thomas J. Myers, USDA/APHIS/VS**, presented “Update on Tuberculosis Listening Sessions and Future Direction of TB Program.” A new approach to the new, significant challenges facing an effective TB program was discussed. Challenges are importation of infected cattle, wildlife reservoir, cattle industry changes—larger farms with more animal movements, biosecurity, limitations of skin test, traceback deficiencies, outdated regulations, disease control approach—depopulate infected herds. Future TB program have not been laid out at this point. TB program strategies are develop a flexible regulatory framework and address the following: state status and administrative procedures, depopulation and indemnity, risky management and biosecurity practices, and imported animals. Also, \$250,000 has been approved toward the establishment of a serum bank to support the development of new tests.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- One new resolution was accepted.
- Six existing resolutions were amended, revised, or reaffirmed.
- Three resolutions were removed.

**Committee Session adjourned at 5:00 pm EDT.**